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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 20, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to the end of a week where we have welcomed the newly-elected Members of the House who will join the 114th Congress, honored a great world statesman in Vaclav Havel, and voted on the first of many difficult bills to be considered at the end of the 113th Congress.

We now approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BILIRAKIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NO AMNESTY OR BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this summer's crisis on the border was the result of President Obama's 2012 decision to grant amnesty to some illegal immigrants. Now, the President is planning to grant amnesty to every illegal in the country—almost—millions more. To make matters worse, these illegal immigrants may also become eligible for government benefits. That is just wrong.

What the President is doing is illegal. Hardworking American taxpayers didn't sign up to foot the bill for unlawful, illegal immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, the President is ignoring the American people, our Constitution, and our way of government. America is a country of laws, not men. My constituents are outraged at the President's imperial actions. American people want, need, and deserve a President who respects and follows the Constitution.

On behalf of my outraged constituents, I am fully committed to stopping this illegal action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

WESTERN NEW YORK PUMMELED BY SNOW

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 days, the western New York community has been pummeled by unrelenting lake-effect snow. Areas of the city of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs were blanketed in over 5 feet of snow, and it continues to fall.

Stranded in cars and trapped in homes, people are unable to access potentially necessary emergency services. Over 150 miles of the New York State Thruway closed, and thus far, the storm has claimed the lives of eight people.

Snowstorms are a routine part of western New York winters, but even with advance notice, storms of this capacity are nearly impossible to prepare for.

I applaud the leadership of Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Mayor Byron Brown, and Governor Andrew Cuomo. Their emergency management teams have been hard at work and will not rest until the snow has been cleared and everybody affected is safe.

However, it is not just those trained for emergencies that have turned out.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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